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THRAPSTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

A. MCINNES

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)

1925.

THRAPSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I have pleasure in giving you my first complete annual report.

The total area of the District is 47,304 acres, 36,836 in Northamptonshire and 10,468 in Huntingdonshire. The population in 1921 was 11,103 of whom 818 were in Hunts. For 1925 the estimated population was 11,336, and of these 10,510 were credited to the Northamptonshire districts, and 826 to the districts in Huntingdonshire.

Housing in Northampton Districts.—The census of 1921 showed that 2,587 families, representing 10,137 persons, occupied 2,572 dwelling houses of 13,051 rooms, giving an average of 1·29 rooms per person. In the houses of 5 rooms or less the average was 1·05 rooms per person. The villages with the poorest room space per person were Little Addington and Slipton with 1·13 each, Denford with 1·15, Twywell and Woodford with 1·16 each, Chelveston with 1·2, and Ringstead with 1·21. About 91 per cent of the people live in houses of 7 rooms or less, and 69 per cent in houses of 5 rooms or less. In neighbouring rural districts the relative figures for dwelling houses of 5 rooms or less were 72·8 per cent in Kettering, R.D., 70·3 in Oundle R.D., and 61·3 in Wellingborough R.D., while in neighbouring Urban Districts the figures were 48·1 per cent in Raunds, 60·4 per cent in Oundle, 72·2 per cent in Irthlingborough, and 72·6 per cent in Higham Ferrers. For the purpose of this comparison a room includes all living rooms, such as kitchens and bedrooms, but excludes sculleries, bathrooms, box rooms, and any room used for business or professional purposes. The average size of the family in houses of 5 rooms or less was 3·7 in Thrapston R.D., 3·87 in Kettering R.D., 3·54 in Oundle R.D., and 3·6 in Wellingborough R.D. In the Urban Districts the figures for similar houses were 3·7 per family in Raunds, 3·27 in Oundle, 4·09 in Irthlingborough, and 4·0 in Higham Ferrers. In the Thrapston R.D., 4·9 per cent of the people lived more than 2 persons to a room. Corresponding figures for neighbouring districts were 4·2 per cent in Kettering R.D., 4·9 per cent in Oundle R.D., 3·8 per cent in Wellingborough R.D., 3·9 per cent in Raunds U.D., 1·7 per cent in Oundle U.D., 5·1 per cent in Irthlingborough U.D., and 3·5 per cent in Higham Ferrers borough.

Occupations in Northampton Parishes.—Of every 1,000 males over the age of 12 years, 237 were engaged in agriculture, 111 in metal works, 96 in textiles and articles of dress, and 94 in mining and quarrying. Among the female population over the age of 12 years the chief occupations were textiles and articles of dress with 117 per 1,000, and domestic service with 91 per 1,000. Although agriculture is still the chief industry, yet of the 16 Rural Districts in Northamptonshire only Northampton R.D., with 219 per 1,000, and

Wellington R.D., with 221 per 1,000, have less males so employed. The large number of females in textiles and articles of dress is due to girls from Stanwick and Ringstead engaged in the boot and shoe industry, and from Brigstock and Woodford in the ready-made clothing industry.

The population in the Huntingdonshire parishes are almost entirely engaged in agriculture.

The rateable value of the Northampton parishes is £66,663 14s. 11d., of the Huntingdon parishes £8,934 4s. 3d., or a total of £75,597 19s. 2d., for the whole Rural District. The sum represented by a penny rate is £202 2s. 6d.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths was 143 in Northamptonshire, 67 males and 76 females, and 9 in Huntingdonshire, 4 males and 5 females. These numbers represent a death-rate for the whole area of 13·4 per 1,000—for the Northampton parishes 13·6 per 1,000, and for the Huntingdon parishes 10·9 per 1,000. The death rate in England and Wales was 12·2 per 1,000. The chief causes of death were :—

	Northants.			Hunts.	
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Measles	0	1	...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	...	0	0
Influenza	0	2	...	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	0	...	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	4	3	...	0	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	...	0	0
Cancer	8	12	...	1	0
Rheumatic Fever ...	0	1	...	0	0
Diabetes	1	1	...	0	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	5	8	...	0	0
Heart Disease	3	10	...	1	1
Arterio Sclerosis	3	1	...	1	0
Bronchitis	5	9	...	0	1
Pneumonia	7	3	...	0	0
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	1	0	...	0	0
Appendicitis	1	1	...	0	0
Nephritis	3	1	...	0	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0	1	...	0	0
Congenital Debility, etc.	0	2	...	0	0
Suicide	1	0	...	0	0
Deaths from violence ...	3	1	...	0	0
Other defined diseases ...	15	15	...	1	3
Ill defined	3	1	...	0	0
Total				4	5

The ages at death according to age groups were :—

Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	over 65 yrs.
11	1	4	1	1	0	4	2	8	8	25	87

Of the 87 over 65 years, 72 were over 70, 30 over 80, and 4 over 90 years. The ages of the deaths in Huntingdonshire were 44, 45, 55, 84, 85, 85, 86, 90 and 91 years. There were 14 inward transfers of deaths and 6 outward transfers.

Cancer Mortality.—The total number of deaths from this disease was 21 or 1·8 per 1,000. The table below gives details :—

Alimentary System		Urinary System with Prostate		Respiratory System		Generative System		Breasts		Skin	
Age		Age		Age		Age		Age		Age	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
53	65	74	43	12			54		40	44	
72	73	79		65			56		47	89	
77	74			69					50		
									55		
									57		
3	3	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	5	2	0

Birth Rate.—The births were 192 in all, 183 in Northants—90 males and 93 females—and 9 in Hunts—4 males and 5 females. Illegitimate births numbered 8, and all were in Northampton. The illegitimate rate is 4·2 per cent of the total births, or 4·3 per cent of those in Northamptonshire. The birth-rate for the whole area is 16·9 per 1,000—for Northants parishes 17·4 per 1,000, and 10·8 per 1,000 in Huntingdon. In England and Wales the birth-rate for 1925 was 18·3 per 1,000. The notifications of births under the Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915, are very incomplete. Midwives notify over 70 per cent of the births notified. Probably midwives attend unassisted about 60 per cent of the births in the whole Rural District.

Infantile Mortality.—Eleven children died under the age of 1 year—10 in Northants and 1 in Hunts. The infantile mortality rate for the whole area is therefore 57 per 1,000 births. In England and Wales it was 75 per 1,000 births. No illegitimate child under the age of 1 year died.

Infectious Diseases.—The notifications of infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis are in the table below :—

Disease		Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	14	0	0
Diphtheria	...	11	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	1	1	1
Pneumonia	...	4	0	10
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	2	0	1
Erysipelas	...	1	0	0
Chickenpox	...	19	0	0

Scarlet Fever.—Of the 14 cases of Scarlet Fever 6 were at Little Addington, 5 Brigstock, 1 Ringstead, 1 Thrapston and 1 Woodford. All the cases were mild.

Diphtheria shows an appreciable diminution on previous years. In 1924 the case rate of Diphtheria in the Thrapston R.D. was 5·8 per 1,000 of population, and in that year was exceeded by only four Urban Districts and one Rural District in England and Wales. For 1925 the case rate for the district was '9 per 1,000 of population. Woodford had 6 cases, Thrapston 3, Twywell 1 and Stanwick 1. Most of the children affected suffered from enlarged tonsils and adenoids. The child at Stanwick was evidently the carrier of a non-virulent form of diphtheria organism. This child had ear discharge for several years, and the pus gave almost a pure culture of the diphtheria bacillus. There was no history of faucial diphtheria, and although she attended school regularly there have been no cases of diphtheria at Stanwick for several years.

Pneumonia.—Four cases were notified, and 10 died. The four cases notified all recovered. Superficially, notification favours the prognosis.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Two were notified, and one, a man of 29 from Brigstock, died, while the other, a boy of 12 from Stanwick, recovered. The fatal case was complicated by a chronic empyema with sinus. The presence of a septic focus made the diagnosis of Encephalitis Lethargica a bit doubtful. Since restarting school the boy from Stanwick, previously rather dull mentally, has, according to his schoolmaster, developed quite a capable mathematical brain.

Chickenpox.—By reason of the proximity of smallpox in Kettering Urban and Rural Districts, chickenpox was made notifiable for 6 months in 1925. Fortunately the district escaped a visitation of smallpox. I did one primary vaccination, at Great Addington, on a smallpox contact. This was done under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Enteric Fever.—The single case of Enteric Fever was at Islip. Chemical analysis of the water from the well supplying the home of the patient showed it to be unfit for drinking purposes. The well was very close to the River Nene.

Puerperal Fever.—The one case of Puerperal Fever notified was from Hargrave. The patient died in Northampton Hospital. She was attended at confinement by both a doctor and a certified midwife. The house is low-lying and damp, and surrounded behind by a cattle yard. Impetigo Contagiosa has been a common disease among children living in this part of Hargrave, during the last 9 or 10 years.

There is no isolation hospital. An uninhabited farm labourer's cottage in a remote part of the parish of Covington is still retained as a Smallpox Hospital.

A number of cases of jaundice of an infectious nature occurred in Ringstead in November and December, 1925. *Leptospira* were

not discovered in the urine of any of the patients. Agglutination tests of the blood of the patients were quite negative to leptospira and the typhoid group of organisms.

Tuberculosis.—The table below summarises the notifications and deaths from this disease :—

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	...	...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10	...	...	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
15	...	...	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
20	...	...	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
25	...	...	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	0
35	...	...	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
45	...	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			8	10	1	1	4	3	2	1

Three of the deaths, which were inward transfers, were not notified in this district. Another death within the district, a death from tuberculosis meningitis, was not previously notified.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis, a female of 44, was from the parish of Keyston, in Hunts, and is included in the table above.

Nine patients were admitted to sanatoria, 8 from the Northampton parishes and one from Hunts.

The tuberculosis death-rate was '95 per 1,000 in the Northampton part of the district. There was no death from tuberculosis in the Huntingdon parishes.

School Closures.—School closures were made at Brigstock for measles, Great and Little Addington for mumps, and Keyston for measles.

Woodford Water Supply.—Bacteriological examination of the public water supply at Woodford showed that typical B. Coli could be recovered from 1 c.c. or more of the water. After treatment with Chlorox, B. Coli could not be found in 100 c.c. of water. The well was faultily constructed, permitting easy contamination by surface water. The waste oil from the pump engine was drained into the soil in the immediate vicinity of the well, and this also contaminated the water. The Emergency Committee of the Council were advised, and instructions were issued by which the mouth of the well was raised and the well given an impervious surround down to the clay.

It is rather difficult to convince some people that clearness of water does not necessarily mean purity of water. To believe this is

to make an error similar to the fly on the window-pane, whose efforts indicate that he thinks transparency is synonymous with penetrability. If our eyes or our sense of taste were good indicators then there need never be any trouble in preventing the development of water-borne diseases. It would be criminal as well as stupid to wait for confirmation of pollution by the outbreak of an epidemic of Enteric Fever or Dysentery.

Piles' Spring, Woodford.—Bacteriological examination of water from this proposed new source of supply for Woodford showed that *B. Coli* could not be recovered from 100 c.c.; 1 c.c. in nutrient agar at 37 degs. c. for 24 hours produced 10 colonies, and 1 c.c. on nutrient gelatine at 22 degs. c. for 48 hours produced 2 colonies. The results are excellent, and show the water to be free from pollution.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.—Mr. R. P. Thomson, M.R.C.V.S., reported that he made 2,132 inspections of cows and heifers. He found 18 suffering from mastitis of non-tuberculous origin, and on his advice 6 were dried off and the milk from the affected quarters of the others ceased to be used for human consumption. Four others were suspected of being tuberculous, but tubercle bacilli were found in only one sample of milk. The animal affected was destroyed. The condition of the cowsheds is fair, and steadily improves, but a general improvement might be made in the methods to obtain clean milk. Very few sheds are provided with buckets, soap and towels for the use of milkers.

Scavenging.—Proper and regular scavenging should be enforced in the larger villages. Large foul-smelling, ill-looking filth heaps are the rule when removal is entrusted to a voluntary worker. Boxes, which are regularly emptied, are a big advance on allowing filth to accumulate on the ground. But it is futile to suggest that an open box can be as good as a closed sanitary bin. By Secs. 35 and 36 P.H.A., 1875, you have the power to call for the provision of closed sanitary bins. A covered ash-bin is a big sanitary advance.

The sanitary system of the District has been regulated chiefly by the P.H.A., 1875. None of the adoptive acts are in force. In a monthly report you were advised to adopt Part iii. P.H. (A.) Act, 1890, and P.H. (A.) Act, 1907, by which bye-laws could be framed demanding the submission of plans and specifications before giving permission to build. The advice was not accepted. There are a number of crazy wooden erections in the area which may not give any trouble as long as the tenants are clean and intelligent; but an undesirable tenant is as likely as a desirable tenant. Moreover, it is scarcely fair to allow a building to go on to completion and then demand alterations or even condemn the building as being unsuitable for human habitation.

A proposal to form a Sanitary Committee was not accepted. Such a Committee would lead to greater efficiency in sanitary administration, besides saving the time of the Council and the time of your diligent Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Barnes.

A. MCINNES, M.O.H.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

MIDLAND BANK CHAMBERS,
THRAPSTON,

March 22nd, 1926.

DR. A. MCINNES,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
RAUNDS.

Dear Sir,

Herewith I beg to submit my sixth annual report on the sanitary condition, including the work done in the District during the past year.

The District has been inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health for any existing nuisance.

The number of inspections made was 1024, and nuisances found were 282, of which 204 were abated, the remaining 78 receiving attention.

Seventeen statutory notices were served having effect to 19 dwellings, 2 slaughterhouses and the day school at Brigstock.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :							
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...				0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...				8

I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.

1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	51
2. Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	140
3. Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation	9
4. Number of houses (exclusive of sub-heading 3) not fit in all respects	0

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices ... 0

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1. Number of Notices served	...	...	...	19
2. Houses rendered fit (a) by owners	...	...	...	51
	(b) by Local Authority	...	...	0
3. Closing orders by declaration of owners	...	...	...	1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Notices requiring remedy of defects	...	...	...	0
2. Remedied (a) by owners	...	...	...	0
	(b) by Local Authority	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1. Representations as to Closing Orders	...	...	...	9
2. Closing Orders issued	...	...	...	1
3. Closing Orders determined by being rendered fit	...	...	...	0
4. Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0
5. Houses demolished under Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0

Houses Examined.—The following is a tabulated statement as required by the Ministry of Health :—

Houses examined for Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis and Measles)	...	...	...	...	47
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Roofs and Ceilings	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	23
Bad Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	18
Unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	9
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	3
Animals and Refuse, etc.	...	...	...	...	17
Home Workers (Factory and Workshop Act, 1901)	...	...	...	...	72
					<hr/> 196 <hr/>

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.—Five old cottages were demolished at Brington, and 1 closing order issued in respect to a derelict cottage at Hargrave.

New Buildings.—Seven new Houses and 1 Bungalow have been erected under the Council's subsidy scheme, and one wood and asbestos Bungalow was erected privately.

Overcrowding.—Overcrowding is still prevalent in the District. Houses are needed. Dirty tenants receive frequent visits in the hope of improvement. Artisan dwellings are particularly required at Woodford, Twywell, Islip, Titchmarsh, Brigstock and Thrapston.

Water Supplies.—A public water supply scheme, reported last year as “in formation” for Thrapston is still in the same position.

Concerning a scheme for Covington, I am of opinion the best course to adopt is to purify the water available. There is no water-bearing strata, and only sub-soil water is to be obtained.

During August the public water supply at Woodford became polluted, and structural alterations to the well were made and the water treated with chloros with good results, although the cause of pollution remains indefinite.

The water supplies at Brigstock and Sudborough are in a very satisfactory condition. Nine samples of water were taken from various sources, and upon analysis 3 were satisfactory and 6 unsatisfactory.

Disinfection after Infectious Diseases.—47 Houses were disinfected. Liquid and gaseous disinfection are used in rooms, and also for bedding, etc. Disinfectants were supplied to all cases. Following 2 deaths from Tuberculosis, 1 from Puerperal Fever, and 1 from Cancer, bedding was destroyed and replacements handed to the rightful parties.

Nuisances.—Nuisances found to exist and abated :—

Found		Abated	
Defective Roofs ...	2	Roofs Repaired ...	2
Defective Spouting ...	5	Spouting Repaired ...	2
Bad Closet Accommodation	18	Closets Rebuilt or Repaired	7
Water Supply ...	3	Wells Repaired, etc. ...	3
Defective Drainage ...	23	Drains Renewed or Repaired	21
Animals and Refuse ...	17	Animals & Refuse Removed	16
Infectious Diseases ...	47	Houses Disinfected ...	47
Dirty Cowsheds ...	26	Cowsheds Cleansed ...	26
Dirty Slaughterhouses	7	Slaughterhouses Cleansed	7
Dirty Bakehouses ...	7	Bakehouses Cleansed ...	7
Dirty Factories ...	9	Factories Cleansed ...	9
Dirty Workshops ...	6	Workshops Cleansed ...	6
	170		153
Under Housing Acts ...	112	Under Housing Acts ...	51
	282		204

The number of private Slaughterhouses in the area :—

		In 1920		January, 1925		December, 1925
Registered	...	22	...	22	...	22
Licensed	...	0	...	0	...	1

Unsound Food.—During the year unsound Food was surrendered and destroyed, viz :—

				cwts. qrs. lbs.	cwts. qrs. lbs.
12 Tins Pineapple	...			15	
1 „ Cherries	...	...		1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
1 „ Peas	...	...		1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1 „ Sardines	...	...		$\frac{1}{4}$	
2 „ Peaches	...	...		5	
1 „ Fruit Salad	...	...		1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
3 „ Apricots	...	...		7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
1 „ Loganberries	...	...		2	
13 „ Tomatoes	...	...		22 $\frac{1}{4}$	
2 „ Strawberries	...	...		3 $\frac{3}{4}$	
3 „ Salmon	...	...		2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
				—	2 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 Rabbit	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pig Carcasses	...	...	1	2 19	
Sheep Carcasses	...	...		2 4	
Other Organs	...	...		3 25 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Chilled Meat	...	...	1	1 25	
				—	4 2 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
					5 0 26

Cowsheds and Dairies.—There are 65 cowsheds in the District, and the number of registered retail purveyors is 53. Wholesale milk producers number 18. Alterations and repairs have taken place to 2 cowsheds, and 26 notices issued in respect of cleansing. 150 inspections were made during the year.

Slaughter Houses and Offensive Trades, etc.—With respect to the 21 Slaughter-houses, 2 Knackers' Yards, 1 Fellmonger, 1 Rag and Bone Premises and 1 Common Lodging House, inspections were made and cleansing orders issued as under :—

Premises			Inspections		Notices	
Slaughter-houses	...	...	120	...	4 } Preliminary	
					2 } Statutory	
Knackers' Yards	...	...	2	...	1	
Fellmongers' Yards	...	...	2	...	0	
Rag and Bone Yard, etc.	...	...	5	...	0	
Fish-Frying Establishments			14	...	1	
Common Lodging House	...		8	...	2	

Factories, Workshops, etc., and Bakehouses.—Inspections and notices as under have been made and issued, viz. :—to 17 Bakehouses, 21 Factories and 14 Workshops, etc. :—

Premises			Inspections		Notices	
Bakehouses	66	...	7
Factories	69	...	9
Workshops	35	...	6
Factory Outworkers (72)			...	72	...	0

Additional sanitary conveniences were installed in one Factory.

Sewers.—New sections of sewer and old portions repaired and re-laid was done at Bythorn.

Sewage Disposal and Lands.—The Crude and Septic Tanks have been cleaned out at Chelveston and Stanwick. The lands at Stanwick, Ringstead, Denford, Islip and Thrapston are in a satisfactory state of cultivation. The Sewage Plant at Stanwick is in need of repair and renewals.

Refuse and Scavenging.—Approximately 200 tons of house refuse has been dealt with at Thrapston.

Scavenging systems are urgently needed at Stanwick, Ringstead and Twywell.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.—The total number of Rats destroyed in the District during the year was 16, 470.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

ROBT. W. BARNES, A.R.S.I., A.B.S.A.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	69	9	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	35	6	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	0
Total ...	104	15	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ...	11	11	0	0
Want of ventilation ...	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors ...	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances ...	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation {insufficient ...	2	1	0	0
{unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	0	0
{not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses ...	0	0	0	0
Other offences ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	15	14	0	0

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 1 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nil.

